

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 SAJ-01 BIB-01 CIAE-00

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R 101542Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1010

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: POFR, EG, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS LAUNCHES BARBS AT SADAT

REF: DAMASCUS 1345

1. SUMMARY. SEVERAL PRESS STORIES ON EGYPT AND THE MIDDLE EAST (MARCH 10) CONTAIN SOME HEAVY BROADSIDES AIMED AT SADAT, AND SUGGEST THAT MOSCOW MAY BE ENGAGED IN PREEMPTIVE REBUTTAL OF THE SOVIET SECTIONS OF THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING MARCH 14 SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (MARCH 10) HIGHLIGHTS ASAD'S ANTI-EGYPT REMARKS IN HIS SPEECH AT DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, ASAD CALLED SINAI II AN "IMPORTANT STEP BACKWARDS" IN THE SEARCH OF A

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POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, SINCE IT COMPLETELY

SERVES THE "PLANS AND INTERESTS OF TEL AVIV." THE SINAI AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED IN VIOLATION OF THE DECISION REACHED AT RABAT, ASAD REPORTEDLY CONTINUED, AND AS A RESULT ISRAEL CAN TRANSFER ITS FORCES FROM THE EGYPTIAN FRONT TO SECTORS "FACING OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES." ASAD REPORTEDLY CONCLUDED THAT SYRIA STANDS FIRMLY BEHIND ARAB UNITY AND SOLIDARITY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE "LIQUIDATION OF THE VESTIGES OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION."

3. ELSEWHERE, PRAVDA CARRIES A REPORT OF THE CAIRO TALKS BY TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON, WHICH STATES THAT THE SECRETARY CONCENTRATED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF US INVESTMENT IN EGYPT, AND PROMISED TO RAISE IN THE US THE QUESTION OF SOME KIND OF "MARSHALL PLAN" FOR THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY, ESPECIALLY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, THE EGYPTIAN SIDE RESPONDED THAT "EGYPTIAN BUSINESSMEN, THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR, AND CAPITALISTS FROM THE WHOLE WORLD" COULD TAKE PART IN SUCH A MARSHALL PLAN. PRAVDA ADDS, HOWEVER, THAT "WE MUST REMEMBER" THAT THE MARSHALL PLAN LED TO WESTERN EUROPEAN "POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY DEPENDENCE ON THE US, AND THE INTRODUCTION" OF AMERICAN CAPITAL INTO THESE COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES. PRAVDA CLAIMS THAT THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY IS GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT PERIOD. IN DESCRIBING PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT FUND-RAISING TRIP TO THE PERSIAN GULF, HOWEVER, PRAVDA CONCLUDES THAT THE MONEY WHICH SADAT OBTAINED WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER EGYPT'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS, WHICH NOW AMOUNT TO FOUR BILLION DOLLARS.

4. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (MARCH 10) CARRIES AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "WHO STANDS BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST NASER?", AND CONCLUDES THE CIA DOES. KZ REPLAYS EXCERPTS FROM AN AL-ANWAR PIECE BY MOHAMMED HEIKAL WHICH REPORTEDLY ACCUSES THE CIA OF "CONSTANTLY CARRYING OUT FURIOUS ATTACKS" ON LEADERS OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST NATIONAL REVOLUTIONS, AS WELL AS ON LEADERS OF ALL PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS IN THE WORLD. CONCERNING NASSER, HEIKAL REPORTEDLY CLAIMS THE CIA CAMPAIGN IS AN EFFORT "TO KILL HIM MORALLY" FOLLOWING SIMILAR EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE HIM PHYSICALLY SINCE HE EMERGED "AS ONE OF THE STRONGEST LEADERS OF A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT." IN CONCLUSION, KZ REPORTS, HEIKAL "UNMASKS THE INSINUATION" AS SPREAD BY THE CIA THAT NASSER LINED HIS OWN POCKETS WITH FUNDS FROM SAUDI ARABIA.

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5. COMMENT: THESE VARIOUS REPORTS CONSITUTE THE HARSHTEST SOVIET MEDIA ATTACK ON EGYPT THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN QUITE SOME TIME, AND SEEM CLEARLY AIMED AT SADAT AND HIS LEADERSHIP. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, MOSCOW IS SEIZING THE HIGH GROUND IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE VIGOROUS ASSAULT FROM SADAT IN HIS MARCH 14 SPEECH. STOESSEL

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